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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,893	10/04/2000	ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO	35.C14845	7041
5514	7590	12/06/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	
DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/678,893	KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI	
	Examiner LaShonda T Jacobs	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is Office Action in response to Applicant's RCE filed on September 3, 2004. Claims 1-24 are presented for further examination. Applicant's newly adds claims 25-30. Claims 25-30 are also present for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stollfus et al (hereinafter, "Stollfus", U.S. Pat. No. 6,321,258).

As per claims 25, 27 and 29, Stollfus discloses an information processing apparatus for communicating with a plurality of devices via a communication link, said apparatus comprising:

- obtaining means for obtaining information of a plurality of resources in the plurality of devices (col. 4, lines 7-36, col. 5, lines 4-19, col. 8, lines 16-29 and col. 9, lines 18-26);
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 4-19 and col. 9, lines 11-26); and

- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, information such that the one device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other devices (col. 9, lines 1-26, col. 10, lines 54-67 and col. 11, lines 1-11).

As per claims **26, 28 and 30**, Stollfus discloses:

- wherein said display step includes displaying the change in statuses of the resources of the plurality of devices by icon changes (col. 9, lines 1-26, col. 10, lines 54-67 and col. 11, lines 1-11).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **1-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goshey et al (hereinafter, “Goshey”, U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,783) in view of Stollfus.

As per claims **1, 9 and 17**, Goshey discloses an information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses to each of which connected is a plurality of shared devices that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network, said information apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing the information of a plurality of shared devices present in the network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 4, lines 39-57, col. 6, lines 57-67 and col. 7, lines 1-60);
- reception means for receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47); and
- transmission means for transmitting the information of a plurality of shared devices connected said information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on the network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

However, Goshey does not explicitly disclose:

- the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices;
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received by said reception means; and
- renewal means for changing information on a status or connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of said information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, wherein said renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices.

Stollfus discloses an administration of networked peripherals using a particular file system including:

- the received information including information of resources in the plurality of shared devices (col. 4, lines 7-36, col. 5, lines 4-19, col. 8, lines 16-29 and col. 9, lines 18-26);
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated in its resources, in accordance with the information received by said reception means (col. 5, lines 4-19 and col. 9, lines 11-26); and
- renewal means for changing information on a status or connected condition of the shared device displayed on a display of said information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, wherein said renewal means changes the information on the status of the shared device such that the one shared device that has been updated in its resources may be displayed on the display distinguishable from the other shared devices (col. 9, lines 1-26, col. 10, lines 54-67 and col. 11, lines 1-11).

Given the teaching of Stollfus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goshey by including an administration program to send, evaluate and report the status of a resource in response to the evaluation in order to provide status information to the client/user in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims 2, 10 and 18, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group (col. 2, lines 41-65 and col. 10, lines 39-67).

As per claims **3, 11 and 19**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims **4, 12 and 20**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in the network system (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims **5, 13 and 21**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after the change (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

As per claims **6, 14 and 22**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to the network system, to automatically transmit -the information of the shared device connected to said information processing apparatus (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims **7, 15 and 23**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of the other information processing apparatus in said management

means (col. 8, lines 22-43, line 67, col. 9, lines 1-14, col. 10, lines 32-50 and lines 57-67).

As per claims **8, 16 and 24**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the shared device connected to said information processing apparatus, selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on the network system or a second method for transmission to the other information processing apparatus through said network system (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,787 to Urevig et al

U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,217 to Fuente et al

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

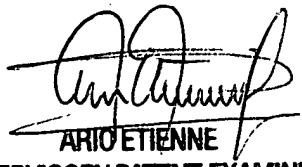
Art Unit: 2157

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
November 30, 2004



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